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From: "Morning Energy" <morningenergy@politico.com>
Sent: Thur 12/6/2012 2:33:04 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, powered by America's Natural Gas Alliance: Anti-Keystone group wary over State report - Exxon PAC spends big before election - Wind workers lobby on Hill - A123 auction - Climate scientists hits Calif. cap and trade
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By Alex Guillén

With help from Talia Buford

ANTI-KEystone GROUP WARY OVER STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT: New rumors that a State Department report on TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline was set to be released next week set off a wave of criticism from anti-pipeline activists in Nebraska that their fears about the project were being overlooked. Talia Buford has more for Pros: <http://politico.pro/UorlSF>

HAPPY THURSDAY and welcome to Morning Energy, where we're taking five for Dave Brubeck (<http://n.pr/SxWMQi>). Send your energy news to at aguillen@politico.com, and follow on Twitter @alexcguillen, @POLITICOPro and @Morning_Energy.

FEC FILINGS ARE BACK! Today is the deadline for candidates and committees to file post-general finance reports covering mid-October through Nov. 26 with the Federal Election Commission - also known as Christmas come early here at ME. We'll have a lot more in tomorrow's edition. For now, here are a few takeaways from reports filed early.

- ExxonMobil PAC far and away led the Big Five oil company PACs in the period, shipping out \$188,500 to federal candidates. Most of that was in \$5,000 chunks to candidates including Sens.-elect Heidi Heitkamp and Ted Cruz, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton and Reps. Lynn Jenkins, Andy Harris, Cory Gardner, Scott Tipton, Michael Burgess and Greg Walden. The PAC also gave \$5,000 to Mary Bono Mack, who lost her reelection bid.

- The rest of the Big Five were much quieter in the days before the election. BP PAC sent out more than \$55,000, mostly to state legislature candidates. ConocoPhillips PAC sent out \$18,500, while Chevron PAC and Shell PAC didn't make any contributions.

- It's never too early for 2014: Exxon PAC gave Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) \$3,000 in mid-November.

- TransCanada - or technically its subsidiary TransCanada USA Services, Inc. - has quietly begun its own PAC. The PAC hasn't disbursed any money since being created in July and has so far picked up \$5,446 from a handful of employee contributions.

SPOTTED: Dining at Bistro Cacao last night, Sens. Ron Wyden and Debbie Stabenow and Dow Chemical CEO Andrew Liveris. ME's tipster noted they broke bread the same day DOE's big liquefied natural gas export report came out. Wyden expressed caution about letting LNG exports hurt consumers - and Dow, one of the biggest natural gas consumers, favors limiting exports to ensure prices stay low.

ICYMI: Matt Daily and Talia Buford had a rundown of the report yesterday (<http://politico.pro/TR6ZG0>) and Talia rounded up reactions: <http://politico.pro/YCfts0>

WITH THE WIND AT THEIR BACKS: Wind workers are flying in to D.C. today and tomorrow for some production tax credit lobbying on the Hill, sponsored by United Steelworkers, Sierra Club and the BlueGreen Alliance. The workers have meetings scheduled with House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp and Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, potentially critical lawmakers to getting a PTC extension. There's also a Hill briefing Friday morning.

A123 AUCTION TODAY: An auction for lithium-ion battery maker A123's assets will take place today at a Chicago law firm - and the figurative paddles in the air may get competitive. Wisconsin-based auto parts manufacturer Johnson Controls plans to go after the company, which landed a \$249 million stimulus grant and filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year. But strong competition from the Chinese-owned Wanxiang, plus interest from a few other overseas firms, has had some on the Hill worried about taxpayer-funded property could end up in foreign hands. The bankruptcy court overseeing A123's proceedings will hold a hearing next week on the sale.

GUESS HE CHANGED HIS MIND: Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today will unveil a video to for the international climate talks in Doha - something he did last year but told reporters last week he wouldn't be doing again this year. From the transcript: "Three years ago, President Obama helped create a United Nations Green Slush Fund that would redistribute over \$100 billion from developed countries to developing countries. While he has been racking up huge deficits and talking up tax increases, the President has already sent billions of American taxpayer dollars to the United Nations - and he's managed to do it quietly so that no one will notice."

** A message from America's Natural Gas Alliance: The safe and responsible development of natural gas supports more than 2.8 million jobs across the country. Curious what the economic benefit is for your state? Find out by using our interactive U.S. map at www.anga.us/jobs. **

ENCANA TO TALK PAVILLION REPORT: David Stewart, Encana's environment, health and safety lead for Wyoming, will host a teleconference at 11 a.m. MST to mark almost one year since EPA released its controversial and much examined draft report on groundwater contamination in Pavillion, Wyo. Stewart will argue that nothing found by EPA came from oil and gas operations and will call for EPA to withdraw the report and shift focus to the shallow wells owners have complained about and away from deeper groundwater.

HANSEN HITS CALIFORNIA CAP AND TRADE: Climate scientist James Hansen doesn't really care for California's new cap-and-trade system. The San Francisco Chronicle: "Hansen trashed cap and trade during a talk Tuesday night at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. The system, in which companies buy and sell permits to produce greenhouse gases, is a 'half-baked' and 'half-assed' way to deal with global warming, Hansen said." SF Chron: <http://bit.ly/TlyAMf>

TODAY IN 'PROMISED LAND' NEWS

- The Hollywood Reporter talks to Matt Damon about fracking and his movie "Promised Land." "One thing [natural gas companies] are very worried about is decisions being made at the local level," Damon said. "They really would rather have decisions being made at the state level. ... OK, that's an understandable argument, but the flip side of it for these local communities is like, are we going to let somebody legislate from the other side of the state what can and can't be done in our actual backyards?" <http://bit.ly/SN5DgC>

- THR also reviews the flick: "A social-issue drama handled in a very human way, Promised Land presents its environmental concerns in a clear, upfront manner but hits some narrative and character bumps in the second half." <http://bit.ly/Vk1CPK>

MAYBE IT WAS A LOVE TAP: Romenesko writes: "A video of Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer getting testy with KTVK-TV's Dennis Welch after he asked about global warming has gone viral - 'Where in the hell did that [question] come from?' she asked - but some of their exchange went unreported, according to a newspaper photographer who witnessed it. West Valley View's Michael

Clawson says Brewer hit Welch 'not hard, but without enough force that he spun around to see what was going on.'" Romenesko: <http://bit.ly/UFUIrn> (h/t Julia Haslanger)

QUICK HITS

- The case against two BP employees charged in the 2010 Gulf spill has a new judge after the previous one revealed a financial conflict of interest. AP: <http://bit.ly/Vxd9AN>

- An oil dispersant used to clean up the BP spill made the oil more toxic and hurt wildlife, scientists say. Daily Caller: <http://bit.ly/Uo5Nej>

- NOAA's annual Arctic report card says conditions are rapidly getting worse thanks to climate change. Nature: <http://bit.ly/TGqftq>

THAT'S ALL FOR ME. Have a great day.

** A message from America's Natural Gas Alliance: We believe in a clean energy future. Natural gas is a cleaner energy choice and a key partner to solar and wind technologies. From California to Florida, natural gas facilities are working with renewable energy to ensure steady, affordable and cleaner energy choices for communities across our nation. Because it is an abundant and affordable energy source available right here in America, natural gas can help make the promise of cleaner energy a reality in more American communities. Natural gas is smarter power today. Visit anga.us to learn more. **

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